

Date Mailed
April 4, 2000

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WISCONSIN

Application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company, as a Gas
Public Utility, for Authority to Construct Gas Distribution
Facilities in the City of Racine and the Town of Mount Pleasant,
Racine County, Wisconsin

6630-CG-109

**NOTICE OF PROCEEDING
AND
INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF COSTS**

THIS IS A PROCEEDING TO consider the December 13, 1999, application of Wisconsin Electric Power Company (WEPCO), as a gas public utility, for authority under Wis. Stat. § 196.49 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 133, to construct natural gas distribution facilities in the City of Racine and the Town of Mount Pleasant, Racine County, Wisconsin.

WEPCO is a gas public utility as defined in Wis. Stat. § 196.01(5), with its principal office in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. WEPCO is engaged in the business of distributing and selling natural gas in areas throughout Wisconsin.

Predecessors to WEPCO were legally engaged in performing gas utility service prior to August 1, 1931, in both the City of Racine and the Town of Mount Pleasant, Racine County.

WEPCO states that existing gas distribution facilities located west of the City of Racine are approaching full capacity. The proposed project includes the installation of new high-pressure supply main and pressure regulation facilities to meet anticipated future customer growth. WEPCO estimated the cost to install the new main and facilities to be \$964,000. By letter dated February 24, 2000, WEPCO states that based on recent estimates received from contractors for similar projects, WEPCO reviewed the project estimate included in its December 9, 1999, application and has revised the estimated project cost. WEPCO now estimates the cost to install the new main and facilities to be \$1,014,000. Wis. Admin. Code PSC § 133.03(1)(h), requires that a public gas utility obtain Commission authorization for any single gas line project the cost of which exceeds \$600,000.

The proposed route proceeds generally west from a new valve pit on Ohio Street, just south of Republic Avenue, to a new pressure regulation station at Willow Road in the Town of Mount Pleasant. The route includes road right-of-way, a WEPCO electric transmission corridor and private property. WEPCO states the affected property owners are in the process of being

identified and that no difficulty is anticipated in obtaining easements from the affected property owners.

Some existing main and pressure regulation facilities would be retired as a result of this project. WEPCO estimates removal costs for the retired facilities to be \$7,000.

The Commission intends to consider the application without a hearing.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Commission considers it necessary, in order to carry out its duties, to investigate all books, accounts, practices, and activities of the applicant. The expenses incurred or to be incurred by the Commission which are reasonably attributable to such an investigation will be assessed against and collected from the applicant in accordance with the provisions of Wis. Stat. § 196.85 and Wis. Admin. Code ch. PSC 5.

This is a Type III action under Wis. Admin. Code § PSC 4.10(3). Since no unusual circumstances have come to the attention of the Commission which indicate that significant environmental consequences are likely, neither an environmental impact statement under Wis. Stat. § 1.11 nor an environmental assessment is required.

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the provision of programs, services, or employment. Any person with a disability who needs accommodations to participate in this proceeding or who needs to obtain this document in a different format should contact the case coordinator listed below.

Questions regarding this matter may be directed to case coordinator Tom Reisdorf at (608) 267-1475.

Dated at Madison, Wisconsin, _____

By the Commission:

Lynda L. Dorr
Secretary to the Commission

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